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ACCOUNT OF A JOURNEY THROUGH NORTHEASTERN TEXAS

(Editor's Note. This is the second installment of an account of a trip through Northeastern Texas made by Edward Smith.)

NOTE: Terrell W. Conner, Jr., President of the East Texas Historical Association, is a collector of Texas Maps. Among the photocopies of maps in his collection is a map showing the route of inspectors through Northeastern Texas in 1849. He first thought this particular map had been made for inspectors of land certificates, but the map began in Jefferson and made a circular route, instead of beginning or returning to Austin. Then he realized that the year 1849 was not the date of the Inspection of Land Certificates for they had been authorized by Fourth Congress of the Republic. Later he learned the map of the inspection trip through Texas in 1849 had been taken from a book which was written by an Englishman, Edward Smith. Conner was intrigued by the map and was determined to find the book from which it was taken. Through the assistance of the Daingerfield Public Library, he obtained a copy of Smith's book, and Conner and his wife working together made an exact typed copy, *The East Texas Historical Journal* using Conner's copy is reproducing the book in three installments.

As a result of Dr. Smith's report, in October 1850, about one hundred English colonists arrived in Galveston and made a difficult overland trip to the Bosque, some fifty miles north of Waco, and established a colony. They settled in a fertile valley and established what they called the City of Kent. Kent was carefully plotted. Inexperience, poor management by the immigrant company, a severe winter, hostile Indians, unsanitary dugout houses, and disease caused the colony to be abandoned. Some of the colonists moved to other areas in Texas, some to other states, and a few returned to England.

ACCOUNT OF A JOURNEY

through

NORTH-EASTERN TEXAS

Undertaken in 1849

Embodied in

A REPORT

To Which Are Appended

LETTERS AND VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

from Eminent Individuals

Lists of Temperature; of prices of land, produce, and articles of merchandise; and of cost of carriage and labour; in several parts of the Western and Southern States;

And the recently adopted

CONSTITUTION OF TEXAS

with

Maps From the Last Authentic Survey

by

EDWARD SMITH

M.D., L.L.B., B.A., &C.

LONDON

Hamilton, Adams, & Co., Paternoster Row

Birmingham: B. Hudson, Bull Street

1849

TO HENRY FREARSON, Esq.

Markets

At the present time, the market at the settler's door demands all the grain and fodder which he can raise, and also all the cows and calves, and well-broke steers. The fat cattle in all parts of N. E. Texas, are purchased by dealers, and driven to Shreeveport (sic), whence they are shipped to New Orleans. In this manner the farmer obtains two or three cents per lb. on foot. The most profitable mode of selling is for one settler to have the charge of all the fat cattle of his neighbours, and to take them to New Orleans. We were informed that steers which were purchased for \$10 in Lamar County, Texas, were sold for \$45 in New Orleans. No cost would be incurred to drive them to Shreeveport (sic), beyond that of the hire of a drover; and \$5 is the cost of carriage from Shreeveport (sic) to New Orleans. Thus the latter mode will yield at least \$20 per head over the former. There is always a good market for the cattle in New Orleans, where they are killed for consumption in the city, or shipped to various parts of Louisiana, and the West India Islands.

The stock of horses and mules is not large, so that the greater portion of them are sold at home; and they will meet with ready sale at proper seasons, on all the cotton-lands of Texas, and Louisiana, at New Orleans. Sheep are scarcely articles of sale at present. Tobacco has not been exported. Wax, honey, and all other productions, have their market at New Orleans.

When grain shall be grown in quantity too large for home consumption, it will meet with a ready market on Red River, and the adjoining lakes. Corn may be used for other purposes than that of food, as in the distilla-

tion of raw spirit, so extensively carried on in Illinois and Ohio. The present high prices of corn in Texas would forbid this, since it is cheaper to import the spirit a distance of 2,500 miles, from those parts where corn is so much cheaper. The present rate of freight, and the lack of railroad communication would prevent its exportation under ordinary circumstances. It is very evident that the planters of the cotton lands in Eastern Texas, and of Western Louisiana, must be supplied with flour, stock, and fat cattle, from the northern prairies; and this market will absorb all the surplus produce for many years to come. But besides this, New Orleans offers an abundant market to the Texas farmer, who can supply it so long in advance of the farmers of the Western States.

No place can assure itself of a better and more permanent market than may the prairies of Northern Texas.

Water

Three very distinguishable kinds of water are met with in N. E. Texas.

1st. The tasteless water derived from the sandy strata. It is common on all the sandy soil; it is very excellent and very abundant in springs and creeks on the woodland, and in springs and wells on the prairies.

2nd. The limestone water, which is found everywhere on the black soil. When the quality of impregnated lime is very small, the water was not disagreeable to us; but, on other occasions, it had a flavour not agreeable to the uninitiated. This taste is precisely like that of the water in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, and all the Western States. Those who are accustomed to its use become very fond of it, and cannot be induced to drink the sandstone water, which is too insipid for their taste. The medical men and other settlers agree in the opinion that it is very healthful, and in no wise promotes the attacks of disease. This water is abundant in springs and creeks, and from wells dug in the soft limestone of the northern counties. The settlers in Red River County prefer to cut cisterns in this soft limestone, or in the soapstone, or to make them of cement; for the water thus collected is of a higher temperature than that from springs, and may, therefore, they think, be drank with more impunity. This mode of cistern building is common in Kentucky, Louisiana, Illinois, and many other states. We found many wells dug by the settlers on our route. As widow Johnson's, fifteen miles from Jefferson, there is one twenty-eight feet deep, of which twenty-four are of sand, and four of ironstone marl. Mr. France, on Sulphur Prairie, has one twenty-three feet deep; twenty feet of yellow clay, and three of limestone boulders. Mr. Doss, Hog Wallow Prairie, has a well twelve feet deep in soil, clay and loose gravel. At Paris there are many wells; the public well is fifty-six feet deep, of sand, red clay, and soapstone. At Mr. Earp's, twenty miles west of Marshall, the well is sixteen feet deep in clay and white sand. Another well, five miles east of Mr. Earp's, is eighteen feet deep.

These varieties of water are so deliciously soft that we never used soap in washing ourselves.

3rd. The mineral water. This is usually impregnated with iron, and has a brackish taste. We found it in some small creeks where iron ore abounds; but so slight was the impregnation that it was seldom unpleasant to our use or our horses. We were informed that this water is commonly met with in the creeks and springs of Denton County, and was of serious injury to the French Colonists. As in our own country, ironstone water is a strong stimulant, and its continued use will induce fever; but it may be avoided by settlers, since good water may be most readily obtained by digging wells. In every part of our journeyings, we found excellent water, with the exception of one place on our Southern route, where we travelled thirty miles without finding a settler. Many settlers attach an extravagant value to their well or spring, for we were frequently informed that theirs would be the last good water which we should drink. There is abundance of stock water throughout the whole N. E. district.

Sulphur springs are not met with in various parts of the country; a valuable one is situated on Col. Reiley's land, on the spot where the town was proposed to be located.

Salt Springs. There are several salt prairies in northeastern Texas. One is situated in Van Zandt (sic) county, and is called Jordan's Saline. The prairie is of good size, and an abundance of strong brine is procured from wells dug twenty feet in depth. The works are small, producing 500 bushels of salt per month, which meets with a ready sale. There is also a Saline on the Sabine which is said to be equally well supplied with salt. The salt thus produced is very impure. They evaporate the brine in cast iron boilers; and being ignorant of chemistry, they do not attempt to separate the useless ingredients. This impure salt sells at 62½ cents per bushel. The settlers find it to their advantage to purchase the salt which is imported from New Orleans, and the cost of carriage being considerable it is an expensive article; but so soon as persons properly informed shall undertake the management of these works, a good article will be procured by the settlers at a very moderate charge. Salt licks are very abundant, I saw many, where herds of buffaloe formerly congregated, and which now are frequented by deer and cattle.

Minerals

We met with immense hills of iron ore, which was said to be, and appeared to be, of excellent quality, in Cass and Titus counties, and on scattered districts in Hopkins and Marshall counties. It abounds in Denton and Cooke counties, up to, and beyond, the cross timbers. This iron lies upon the surface, and can be purchased for three shillings per acre. We were informed that a furnace is established on the Cypress Creek. We saw a blast at Marshall, where pig iron is used for castings; but we have not seen a smelting furnace. It is well known that Texas abounds with iron ore of first-rate quality.

Other minerals are said to have been found in N. E. Texas, but we have not seen any, except certain nodules in the soft limestone, which are sometimes found of very large size.

Coal. This mineral is undoubtedly found in the western part of the State, where the Spaniards and Mexicans formerly worked numerous mines; but in N. E. Texas none has been sought for, so far as we have heard. This subject attracts no attention in Texas, since the best charcoal can be made in abundance, and almost without cost; and the best iron in the other States is made by the aid of charcoal. Pine charcoal is sold retail to smiths at six cents per bushel.

Clay. Blue, red, and yellow clay abound universally. I am not aware that we have seen a foot of soil which was not supported by clay, either directly or indirectly, and the bed is usually of considerable thickness. Brick making is carried on on a small scale only, and chiefly for private use. But very little intelligence is associated with the undertaking, and, whilst it is believed that the clay is excellently adapted for brick making, they produce an inferior article only, by neglecting to work the clay, and by using too much sand. The bricks are brittle, but are said to harden on exposure to air. I am unable to say, if this clay be suited for the manufacture of crockery or of fire bricks.

Limestone is very universally distributed over Texas and all the Western States. On the black soil, at the heads of the Trinity, it approaches to the surface, where it forms what are termed lime points. This is the magnesian limestone, and is soft and very easily cut with the tool so that is very suitable for the lapidary and for inner building work. It is used in the construction of chimneys, but is liable to disintegrate on exposure to air. The blue-lias is found several feet below the surface, on the North Sulphur fork, and at the heads of the Trinity, and probably in many other places. It is of good quality and makes good lime and enduring stone work. In no part of the country has any exploration been made for this or any other mineral, and therefore it has been discovered in the beds of the streams only. It is universally asserted that good limestone may be met with everywhere.

Soap and Toad Stone are found in various parts of the country, and we saw them in detached masses in Hopkins and Dallas counties.

Sand Stone undoubtedly exists under the sandy soil, but since there are no quarries, we saw but little of it. We found a bed of very hard and close grain near to Dallas and on the Sulphurs.

Labour

In Titus county, labour costs \$15 per month.

In Hopkins county, labour costs \$8 to \$12 per month, and is plentiful.

In Lamar county, labour costs \$8 to \$10 per month, and is plentiful.

In White Oak Settlement, labour costs \$12 to \$15 per month, and is scarce.

We found labour tolerably abundant, as a whole, except in harvest and ploughing seasons; and the cost of it is reasonable. Two circumstances will prevent its being abundant during many years to come.

First. Land may be procured on most easy terms, and the required cultivation is but little. The poor man may therefore live on his own farm with more comfort and profit than in occupying the position of hired servant to another. Some settlers, who are more than usually industrious, keep their own farms, and at certain seasons also hire themselves as labourers to others.

Secondly. The settlers have usually been poor on their arrival, and could not pay for hired labour; and the produce raised by them being small in quantity and restricted to a few articles, they have not required it. Thus no encouragement has been offered to labourers, and consequently they have become farmers themselves. It appears that a large number of young men run over all the Western States and Texas, and hire themselves for short periods; but they cannot be depended upon. Mechanics are scarce and obtain very high wages.

A colony should import every kind of labour. Even farm labourers would be useful, since the American labourer is not accustomed to, and will not bear, the vigilant eye of an English employer to be always upon him. Shepherds, who well understand their business, smiths, wheelwrights, carpenters, bricklayers, tanners, shoe-makers, tailors, engineers, and practical chemists, may be taken there with advantage.

It is highly probable that the high wages and abundant demand for labour would entice the imported mechanics from their employers, unless efficient means were employed to prevent it. No doubt exists as to the practicability of entering into a legal agreement here, which shall be recognized in Texas; but although justice is there well administered in every county, the mechanics would have so many means of escape, that it would not pay to follow them to inflict punishment. It is therefore essential that the mechanics selected should be those upon whose honour implicit reliance may be placed. I would advise that they be informed fairly of the temptations which await them there, and that a liberal remuneration be offered to them for a limited period. An honest man might thus improve his present condition, and faithfully benefit his employer. The agreement ought still to be in writing and witnessed, so that no misunderstanding might ensue. It would also be well to bind him by self-interest, as by offering him a share of the profits, or by requiring him to pay his own expenses out, to be returned to him if he fulfilled his agreement. Sureties might enter into a bond available in England, to ensure the payment of a certain amount, if the mechanic broke his engagement; provided that some mode of proof could be agreed upon between the parties. A mechanic, who can work out of his trade as well as in it, would be more useful than a better workman who attends but to one employment. I would advise that they be married men, with families; one or more children being above eight years of age; and that they be teetotallers. The wife and children might be profitably employed in domestic matters.

Manufactures

Perhaps no country offers so many advantages to manufacturers as does Texas. There the great staple articles, cotton, wool, silk, and flax, grow in perfection, whilst the mechanic would be surrounded with the necessities and comforts of life at a very small cost. Water power is met with on the Cypress Creek, Lilly's Creek, the Sulphurs, Sabine, Bois d'Arc, Sister Grove Creek, East Fork, and other heads of the Trinity; but it cannot be said to be plentiful, and therefore steam power must supply its place. The fuel for this purpose is purchased at half-a-dollar per acre, and the only expense would be for cutting and carrying it.

Cleaning and carding of cotton and wool; tanning; shoe and harness making; tobacco manufacturing; wine brandies, and spirit making; wood sawing and grain grinding; iron smelting, casting, and working; the manufacture of agricultural implements, and all kinds of wood-work, with a thousand other occupations, could be most profitably established. Those who are acquainted with Texas believe that it will place itself in the first rank as a manufacturing as well as producing country. At present the length and breadth of the country is open to the manufacturer, and he would be welcomed with open arms by every settler.

Security

1st. As it respects men.

The most perfect security to life and property reigns throughout N. E. Texas, far more perfect than can be found in the Eastern States, or in Europe, or indeed in any well-peopled country. We travelled alone by day and night, and never received incivility or injury; and the only attempt to impose upon us was by one of our own countrymen. The inhabitants behaved very kindly to us, and on several occasions would not be paid for our board and lodging. They are exceedingly desirous to receive new settlers, knowing that the resources of their country will thus become developed, and their own property increased in value; and therefore they are not likely to offer injury to those whom they desire to receive amongst them. They are too rich to render theft worthy of their attention. Unprotected loaded waggons, which have broken down on the highroad, have been known to remain unmolested for many days. They boast of their admitted honesty in paying their debts, and in a legal regard for the rights and property of others. The only occasion on which we were robbed in Texas, reflects credit upon their honesty. On leaving the house of Mr. Bean, on June 14, I discovered that a pair of pistols had been stolen from my saddle-bags. I informed the old gentleman of my loss, but was unable to affirm that he or his people had stolen them, for we had spent some hours amongst the Creek Indians on the day before, and since that time I had not examined my bags, which were always unlocked. He replied that he did not think that any one about his house would be guilty of such an act; and in a discontented mood, I proceeded on my journey. We travelled twenty-four miles during the day, and at night staid (sic)

at the house of Colonel Wells; and in the following morning, about five o'clock, I was surprised with a visit from Mr. Bean, Junior, who had brought me one of the pistols. He said that he was not aware of my having lost two pistols, and that this one had been brought to him on the yesterday afternoon by one of his slaves, who stated that he had found it on the road. Having informed him of my having lost two pistols, I then requested him to go home, and find the other pistol, whilst we stayed at Col. Wells's, and let me have it in the morning. To bring this pistol had cost him a ride of forty-eight miles, and he was unwilling to bring the other at the same cost, and offered me six dollars in lieu of the lost pistol. This I refused, and he departed. The next morning a messenger brought the other pistol, which had been sold to the California Camp by the same Negro, who had restored the former one. They showed not a little honesty, to follow a stranger one hundred miles with a pair of lost pistols, and I doubt if such honesty would be met with in England. The settlers are a mixture of races from Europe, and the Northern and Southern states, but we did not find a Spaniard or Mexican amongst them. From them we received only kindness and courtesy.

The eastern portion of the country through we have travelled was very unsettled, until a very recent period. Many persons of every rank in life, who had committed crimes in the United States, fled to the woods of Texas, where they were securely hid from their pursuers. They often carried intelligence, and knowledge, and not unfrequently dispositions, fitted for the production of every crime. When the number of these persons had multiplied, the old settlers found life and property to be insecure, and they thought it to be necessary to adopt measures to drive away the intruders. This could not be effected by any legal process, since the criminal could readily escape into the woods, and he had associates who would swear alike to facts and falsehoods. This was precisely the condition of things along the Mississippi Valley, and in all the Western States, as recently so ten or fifteen years ago, and there, as in Texas, Lynchlaw was put in force against the offenders. A number of the old settlers united themselves into a band, and called themselves the "Regulators," and whenever a settler became notorious as a murderer or thief, they gave him the choice of being hung, or of fleeing from the neighborhood. The operations of this band soon exceeded the bounds of prudence, and a new one arose called the "Moderators," for the purpose of restraining the zeal of the Regulators. A deadly feud sprung up betwixt the bands, and the lives and property of the members, and their adherents, (but of these only) were far more insecure than they had been before the Regulators were organized. Set battles occurred betwixt these men trained to the use of the rifle, and hundreds of them were killed in the engagements, until the Government interposed with a body of soldiers, and broke up the bands, and permanently established peace in the country. It will be observed that these bands arose for the promotion of the public good, and it is to the excess of their zeal in a good cause that the ill fame of Texas may be attributed. Many of those who had formerly fled from justice were hanged or shot, and many others were compelled to leave the country. Such

persons could not remain for a long time in any place, and many of them went to the Mexican war, and others to California. Of those who went to Mexico, but few have returned to Texas, since the Mexican "war bounty" of lands could not be located there, owing to the Federal Government not possessing lands in the state. Some of these persons may have sold their certificates, and have returned to the country, but the major part of them would go into the Western States where their Land Warrants could be located.

The law is now firmly administered in N. E. Texas, and its influence keenly felt, as the following case will prove:

A Mr. Thomas of Hopkins county, with whom we lodged, was recently annoyed by a stray steer which would climb up the roof of his corn-house, lift up the door with his horns, and help himself to the corn. Corn was then selling at one-and-a-quarter dollars per bushel, and the loss became serious. He drove away the steer repeatedly, and as repeatedly did it return. He made diligent inquiry for the owner, but he could not be found, and the law which permitted him to impound a horse, forbade the impounding of a steer. He had heard that if an ox be shot through the horn, he will leave the neighbourhood; and thereupon he took his rifle, and did so. Now an owner was found, who indicted him for shooting his ox with malicious intent; the which, if proved, would have subjected the offender to imprisonment in the State prison. The malicious intent could not be proved, and he was condemned to pay for the injury which he had caused, which was valued at four dollars; the which, together with costs on both sides, amounted to ninety dollars.

The Law of Texas forbids gambling, under a heavy penalty, to be sued for by presentment to the Grand Jury, a body which has far more power in the United States than in our country. On two occasions, Thomas had been seen to play at cards, one game only on each occasion, and for one dollar per game, and he with eleven others had been arraigned before the Grand Jury, and would have to appear at the trial in three or four weeks. He now, not only knew, but felt, that either to win or to lose his case would be a loss; and so much did he fear the law and lawyers, that he had offered his farm for sale, in order to run away before the trial came on.

The Indians are not met with in Texas, except in the mountainous district of the northwest, and on the prairies to the west of the cross timbers. The Cherokees, Choctaws, and Chickasaws, occupy the Indian Territory and a part of the State of Arkansas, all to the north of Texas.

The Cherokees boast that they have never shed the blood of white man. Each of these nations has regularly organized courts of law, after the European fashion, with judges and counsellors of their own nation. They have newspapers printed by and amongst themselves; and the gentle editor of the *Lowell Offering* is not ashamed to exchange her journal with them. Many of them are wealthy, as the result of industrious farming and

a large portion of these nations are devoting themselves to agricultural pursuits. Their sons are sent to the Eastern States to be educated, and their daughters are found in the schools of Clarkesville and Paris, in N. E. Texas. They have adopted the dress of Europeans, and speak the English language fluently. The members of the State receive a small pension from the American Government. The Indians of the pure breed are still of a highly honourable nature, for the captain of a steam boat plying up the Arkansas River told me that in selling wood, they were anxious to make the pile as solid as possible, whilst the civilized white prefers to adopt the opposite course. The half-breeds are becoming numerous, and with an increased degree of intelligence, have a far less amount of honesty than the pure Indian. In order to prevent evil passions, the National Government forbids the introduction of ardent spirits into their territory, and a troop of mounted Rangers is sustained by it, to watch along the borders of the State, and at the various landing places on the rivers, to prevent its importation. They will expel any foreigner from their territory who has rendered himself amenable to the laws of other countries, if a representation be properly made to them by the legal authorities. The Comanches, and other tribes, are still dangerous in the north and south-west. Even so recently as three years ago, they inhabited the counties of Dallas, Cooke, Collins, Grayson and Denton; and although they did not kill the white man, they stole their horses, and kept them in great fear. Now they are altogether removed, and we travelled alone through those counties in perfect safety, and without fear. The Comanches, even, do not profess hatred to the Americans, for they assisted General Taylor in the Mexican War, but it is against their former oppressors and enemies, the Mexicans, that they wage war, and in these frays Americans are sometimes killed. No Indians now remain in north east Texas, and during the past four years perfect security has been enjoyed by all persons. During many years no civil traveller has been otherwise than kindly treated by both settlers and Indians.

2nd. As it regards beasts, reptiles, and insects.

Bears have been very plentiful in Texas, but are not found in the River bottoms. They were very valuable to the early settlers, by supplying the place of bacon, and furnishing oil valuable for domestic purposes. Now that hogs are plentiful, bears are not so much valued, but still their flesh is highly prized. The settlers hunt them in the winter months, and I purchased the skin of one out of forty-four, which were killed in one bottom, during the winter of 1847-48. The bear is never seen in the open country, nor indeed in the river bottoms, except in close cane brakes, far from the haunts of men. The hunters, accompanied by trained dogs, enter their brakes on foot, and having fallen upon the track of a bear, commence an arduous pursuit of many miles unless they can surround their prey, and compel him to mount a tree, where they shoot him at their leisure. The sport is most fatiguing, but not dangerous. They sometimes destroy the hogs wandering in the woods at a distance from the habitation of the settler; and on this account also, the settler hunts

them and drives them into more unfrequented places. They are fast disappearing; a fact much regretted by many of the settlers, for no danger to man is ever apprehended. We travelled alone through dense woods and cane brakes, and around us were the tracks of bears and other beasts, but with one exception, we never believed ourselves to be in the slightest danger.

This serious recontre occurred on the evening of May 31st. On the preceding day we had lost our way in the Sulphur River bottom, and had been filled with alarm at seeing the tracks of bears and other unwelcome creatures in that unfrequented place. On the evening just indicated, we travelled in the southeastern portion of Lamar county, in a low marshy district, and were informed by Mr. Doss that we should certainly see herds of deer during our evening's ride. Mr. Friend had a good rifle, and was anxious to have an opportunity of carrying a fat buck to our next host. We set out in good spirits, but had not proceeded far before we fell upon the track of a bear, quite recently made, and which kept in the open road, along which we must travel; the which led us to believe that we should not meet with pleasant companions. After a time we thought that we had lost the right path, and the bear's tracks rendered it imperative that we should not get out of the frequented road. Mr. Barrow proceeded onward, whilst I returned to examine our route, and having found that we were in the right path I hastened to join him. But a misfortune occurred which again tended to disturb our equanimity. On crossing a very narrow creek, my horse unexpectedly became fast in the mud, and we fell together into the river. Mr. Barrow hastened to lend me his hand, having got out, we took my gun and heavy saddle bags off the horse and got him safely out. I then commenced re-saddling, and on looking round found Mr. Barrow's horse standing behind the bushes, and his appearance revealed what his rider was not anxious to tell, that he too had not preserved the perpendicular. Somewhat disturbed in spirits, we re-mounted, and in silence pursued our journey, and at length entered a spot which appeared likely to find us sport. This was a small open space, one-eighth of a mile in width, having an open wood on an elevated ground on the one hand, and another on the declivity on the other hand. We now separated and prepared for sport, carrying our guns in our hands, and straining our eyes to discover the deer, browsing in the shade of the wood. We rode in silence for some minutes, when suddenly my friend's attention was arrested by a suspicious looking object crouching in a ditch about one hundred yards in advance of his horse. He very significantly attracted my attention, and pointed to this creature. I rode to his side, and we commenced an examination, which ended in finding a grizzly bear directly ahead of us. What must we do, fight, retire, or avoid him, by turning on one side? Our English blood seemed to prefer the former course, and our abundant supply of weapons had the audacity to encourage us, for I had a double-barrelled shot gun, and a brace of pistols, and my friend an excellent large bored rifle and a brace of pistols also; thus giving us the chance of seven shots at our fierce enemy. But again, we remembered that we had never fought with a bear; we could not rely

upon the certainty of our aim; we knew that a wounded bear shows no quarter; and we could not fly from him, for our horses were too jaded, and the soil was deep and soft, and the land was woodland. Now thought of home, of dear fire-sides, of a loved wife, of children, and of anxious friends, rushed into the mind. What if one or both of us should die? Our duty did not require us to undertake such a risk, and it would be to rashly tempt Providence to leave us to our fate. We could not bring ourselves to adopt the second alternative, since that would evidence, what we did not like to tell even to ourselves—cowardice. The third expedient seemed impracticable, for we had heard that the grizzly bear never turns out of his way, and it might be that on this occasion he would be disposed to pursue, if we attempted to pass by him. This was an awful moment, but it was but a moment, for speedily we saw him move, and he dragged his hind parts after him. Now, hurrah! fifty tons were in an instant removed from our shoulders, our courage rose high, very distinct notions flitted across our minds of the encomiums which would be bestowed upon us when we presented the skin and claws of a grizzly bear to our wondering countrywomen. We were now all activity, and agreed upon our plan of attack. Our pistols were removed from their cases, and laid on our knees. Our guns, newly capped, were cocked, and held in the hands. My friend was to advance within fifty yards of the dreaded beast, and take a deliberate aim at the vulnerable point behind the shoulder and discharge his rifle. I was to wheel around a little, and approach somewhat nearer with my horse's head towards the foe, and having both my barrels ready cocked, to hold my gun to my shoulder and discharge them, if my friends aim should not prove true. He placed himself, and now came the awful moment. We drew in our breath, and I very cautiously advanced near to my position, when,—O, horrible, it proved to be a hog.

The grizzly bear is far more dangerous than the black bear, but he is not found in N. E. Texas.

Panthers have existed in N. E. Texas in great numbers. Judge English, one of the early pioneers, stated that he and his party had shot more than sixty of them in one year. They are now scarce, and whenever one is discovered in any neighbourhood, the settlers joyfully make a band of hunters, and assisted by their dogs, soon possess themselves of the skin. These creatures have been most useful to the country, in joining with wolves, buzzards, and other scavengers, in devouring animals about to die from age, injury, or disease. Animal life is most abundant in Texas, and man, or wild beasts, are requisite to keep it within due bounds. There are no jungles there, and therefore no suitable lairs for the panther, and he crouches in the long grass of the river bottoms. He is very cowardly, and even when urged by hunger will run away from a man if pursued by him.

Wolves formerly annoyed the settler by stealing his sheep, lambs, calves, and young hogs. We have travelled under almost every variety of circumstances, and have never seen nor heard them. The settler keeps hounds which go out in pairs to hunt the wolves, bears, and other beasts; remain-

ing absent for one or more days at a time. In this manner, these creatures are driven from the settlers, and are compelled to lead the van of civilization. Deer and other game being abundant, wolves do not become ferocious. We frequently saw the well-picked bones of oxen, which had been left by the traveller to die, showing that the wolf had served his country.

The wild cat is as large as a small fox, and will fight fiercely when attacked, but otherwise will never be seen. They are neither important nor abundant enough to injure the settler, or to find worthy sport for the hunter.

The racoon steals the fowls of the farmer, but the dogs keep up a continual watch against him. On leaving the house of Col. Wells, before mentioned, I found three dogs crouching at the foot of a tall tree. On seeing me, they commenced barking furiously, looking up the tree. I then discovered a racoon, lying very close to the top most branch, and believing it to be a squirrel, I shot him. He clung with great tenacity to the tree, but at length fell, and was most fiercely received by his waiting enemies, to any one of whom he was no equal match. They are larger than a cat.

Alligators abound in the Gulf, in all the mouths of the Mississippi, and up that river for several hundreds of miles. Its favourite haunts are the sluggish bayous and lakes of Louisiana. It does not frequent rivers with high banks, nor where there is a rapid current. We saw a few lying on logs in the Mississippi and Red Rivers, the which were invariably shot at by the passengers. Men usually exercise a little prudence when fishing on the low banks of these streams, but they will quietly pursue their occupation when one is lying on a neighbouring log watching for the fish which they may catch. We saw boys and men bathing from logs in the Mississippi and Red Rivers, and young pigs, lambs, and calves, quietly feeding upon the banks, or drinking the water in the river. The alligator appears to have the like predilection of dog flesh which the wolf has for that of the horse. If a dog be beaten near to the banks of these bayous, the waters immediately are living with alligator's eyes. A dog in the river has but a poor chance of escape, unless he turn around and fight the alligator, which then flees, and pursues again as soon as the dog tries to escape. They prefer a negro to a white, and a black dog one of any other colour. On land they are not formidable, since they cannot turn with facility. We understand that they are found in the lakes near to Jefferson, and in the Sulphur fork, but they do not frequent the Sabine and Trinity Rivers so high as the point examined by us.

The Alligator Gar is a fish abounding in the Gulf and up the Mississippi, even to the mouth of the Ohio. These creatures are far more feared than alligators, since they are more numerous and more agile, and are not seen until they strike. They resemble the shark, and render it dangerous to put the hand or foot over the boat's side into the water. It is not found in Texas. (Note: It is interesting to note that the gar is now found in backwaters of the Neches and Trinity Rivers.)

The Rattlesnake and the Mocassin Snake are found in marshy places remote from the path of man. I have seen but two rattlesnakes and not one mocassin. The one was in Texas and lay dead on the road; the other was in a low place on the banks of the Mississippi, where the steam boat took in wood. The latter was observed near to a knot of the passengers who were standing in the grass, and was at once killed by one of them striking it with a rail. The skin was too injured to render it worth being preserved. The fangs are long, very narrow, and bent, and lie flat in the mouth until the snake darts, when they are raised and may inflict a wound. These snakes are frequently killed with a stick a foot long, since they cannot strike without being first coiled up. It is unwise to attack them from behind, since they can throw themselves backward a short distance without being coiled. The settlers are cautious, but do not fear them, for they warn the intruder by their rattle, which must be used before they coil, and therefore before they can bite. We met with ladies who had killed them. The huntsman guards against them by wearing long buck-skin overalls through which the fangs of the snake cannot pierce, and marches securely and carelessly through a wild or marshy district. I have accompanied the huntsman repeatedly in hunting in close woods and river bottoms, and that without overalls, and never knew myself to be in any danger. The Mississippi Valley and the Western States formerly abounded in these noxious creatures, when the settlers set apart one day in a week for their destruction, each one usually killing thirty or forty before taking breakfast. The medical remedy for their bite, is the free internal and external use of ammonia and other nervous stimulants; but since these are not usually at hand, the popular remedy is far better—viz, to dash cold water abundantly upon the part, or to stand in a river for five or six hours, if the lower extremities should have been bitten. I was assured by a fellow passenger that he had saved a dog by this remedy, and by another, that his brother escaped by standing in the river. There are other snakes, as the black chicken snake, which are harmless, and one of these, I killed and skinned. Snakes of all kinds live on rats and small animals, and are themselves destroyed in multitudes, by hogs and rapacious birds. I saw a number of goss hawks eagerly devouring a rattlesnake.

The Tarantula exists abundantly in some unfrequented districts. I saw it twice. One walked into the streets of McKinney, and was quietly killed by putting the foot of a chair upon it. They cannot jump, and may be killed without the slightest danger. They are usually found on steep hills, in woods, and we were warned of their approach by the rustling of leaves.

The Centipede I have not seen. Its bite is accounted to be more dangerous than that of the Tarantula. It inhabits the like places with the Tarantula, and gives the like warning of its approach. The settlers do not sit or lie down in their haunts, nor in any place, without first examining the ground, but we lay upon the ground some hours every day, without finding any of these creatures. They are dangerous if disturbed whilst creeping over the person. The danger is far less from the bites of these insects, than from that of the Rattlesnake, but the effect remains for many years. Ammonia and olive oil are the remedies, and must be used freely.

All these noxious creatures avoid the habitations and paths of men. None will be the aggressor, but will flee if they have the opportunity; and with a very little caution, no danger needs to be apprehended. An ordinary precaution is, to take a box of lucifer matches; the light and smell from which, repel the attacks of any of them.

Mosquitoes are found in wet woodlands, and there only. At Jefferson we were much annoyed with them, but with this exception, and that of portions of the river bottoms and hog-wallow places, we never saw them in Texas. N. E. Texas as a whole, is free from them; and the settlers do not use mosquito bars. Trees may be planted around the dwellings in dry places, without fearing to harbour these creatures; but in wet localities, it is well to live away from the wood. They are of a very light frame, and a light breeze blows them away.

The prairie fly annoyed our horses for a day or two when the sun shone brilliantly, but they do not bite when the sun is shaded. They are confined to sandy and hog-wallow prairies, where the slow moving oxen are sometimes seriously injured by them. Travellers avoid them by using cotton netting to the horses, and by journeying at the dawn and close of day in summer.

Laws Respecting Aliens

By paragraph four, of section eight, of the Constitution of the United States, Congress is empowered to establish a uniform rule of naturalization for all the States.

It is the duty of an alien resident of the United States who wishes to become a citizen, to make the required declaration in a Court of Record; after which, he is entitled to the protection of the State, and enjoys some of the privileges of a citizen, and in five years he may demand letters of naturalization. Having become a citizen, he is eligible to every office in the State of Texas, after conforming to the laws, as regards length of residence, etc. He must have been a citizen of the United States seven years, before he is eligible as Representative in Congress and nine years before he can become a member of the United States Senate. The only office in connection with the United States government to which he will ever remain ineligible is that of President.

The right of aliens to vote under any municipal charter will of course depend upon the provisions of the charter. Almost every town in Texas has its charter of incorporation.

The basis of the law in Texas as in all the United States, is the old common law of England, which there remains in full force, unless altered by Statute. The Statutes of Texas are published in two volumes, which any settler may obtain. The forms of law are simplified copies of those of England.

From the Hon. Judge Mills, who presides over one of the northern

districts, and resides at Clarksville, I learnt that no law whether of Federal or State origin, forbids aliens to hold lands. They hold them by courtesy, until they are naturalized, when they obtain the fee-simple, but in the meantime they have full power to dispose of them by deed or devise, and therefore their possessions are as valuable as those of citizens. No special tax is imposed upon aliens.

The Constitution of Texas is an enlightened and liberal one, in which all the excellent provisions of our own constitution have been embodied, with the following notable alterations.

1st. There is no person nor class of persons entitled by hereditary right to rule over the whole or any portion of the country, nor to hold any office of honour, trust, or profit in it.

2nd. Treason works no corruption of blood.

3rd. There is no law of primogeniture, or of entail.

4th. There is no religion established and supported by law, and consequently, no toleration of dissenters.

5th. The suffrage is universal. No property qualification is required from an elector, and the basis of representation is not territorial, but numerical.

6th. No property qualification nor religious test is required from the candidate for the Governorship of the State, nor for a seat in either house of the Legislature, nor for admission to any public office.

7th. Taxation is equal, uniform, and direct.

8th. That part of the old common law which considers a married woman as dead in law is abrogated by statute, giving to her even more power than she possesses under the civil law. Thus any property possessed by her before marriage remains at her sole disposal after marriage; as also any property to which she may become entitled during coverture. She may receive from and give to her husband a deed of conveyance whilst under coverture.

Any deed of conveyance made by the husband requires for its full validity the signature of the wife also. The homestead can never be taken in execution for debt.

Taxes

The State imposes a tax of twenty cents upon each \$100 worth of property, whether real or personal; and the county has power to impose a tax of half that amount.

Unimproved lands are usually valued by the county assessor at \$ $\frac{1}{2}$ per acre, but the owner may return them as of higher value, if he desires to do so. Two hundred and fifty dollars worth is allowed untaxed, to all persons, and some exceptions are made respecting stock, as that a horse,

under four years old, is untaxed. The store keeper is required to make a return of the actual value of all the goods which have been received by him for sale, and the above-mentioned tax is payable upon every hundred dollars worth so received. A poll-tax is placed upon every male person of twenty-one years of age, including slaves; of this, the State received \$1 and the county may receive $\$ \frac{1}{2}$. A license is required in order to practice the professions of physician and lawyer, and perhaps some others. These taxes are but nominal, when compared with those of our own country, and all other taxes are imposed by local municipal authority. Thus,

	Dollars
100 acres of unimproved land, valued at half-a-dollar per acre	50
50 acres of improved land, valued at one dollar per acre	50
House and furniture, valued at	80
Stock valued	150
	<hr/>
	330
Deduct	250
	<hr/>
Dollars	80
upon which the tax would amount to	24 cents
Poll Tax	150 cents
	<hr/>
	174 cents,
	or under 8s/year.
A tradesman has—	Dollars
House and furniture, valued at	250
Horses and waggons, valued at	160
Yearly stock of goods	10,000
	<hr/>
	10,410
Deduct	250
	<hr/>
	10,160

His tax yearly would be $30\frac{1}{2}$ dollars, or about £6.

The public debt of Texas amounted, on January 1st, 1848, to five-and-a-half millions of dollars, and the Government holds one-hundred-and-eighty millions of acres of land, the which, valued at three cents per acre, will pay the debt.

The following is a list of the taxes assessed in Texas in 1847.

	Dollars	Dollars	Cents
40 millions of acres of land valued at	25,127,566 Tax	51,500	0
22,237 town lots, valued at	2,984,398	5,968	80
37,106 Negroes, valued at	12,131,268	24,262	53
405,746 cattle, valued at	1,662,071	3,324	14
41,209 horses, valued at	1,721,691	3,443	38
Miscellaneous property, valued at	1,675,174	3,350	35
Total value of property assessed	45,302,168	91,849	20
Poll tax, 1 dollar		18,504	0
		110,353	
		or about £22,000	

The following was the state of the revenue from February 19, 1846, to December 31, 1847, or about 20 months:

From the Republic	Dollars
From duties on import	51,206
direct taxes	21,154
licenses	7,692
indemnity from United States	26,922
miscellaneous sources	2,673
cash in treasury	19,297
From the State Government	
direct and license Taxes	76,837
misc. sources	268
Special deposits on account of estates	162
	206,211
Expenditures	
Appropriations by State Government	121,103
Appropriations by Republic	15,643
County tax fund, and special deposits withdrawn	211
Fund reserved for education, one-tenth of revenue	7,710
	144,667

Balance in Treasury, £12,500 or 61,546 dollars.

Healthfulness of N. E. Texas

The general healthfulness of a country depends upon a variety of circumstances, some having their origin in natural causes, and others depending upon civilization. Both these classes exist at this moment in N. E. Texas, but the former has a preponderating influence. The healthfulness mainly rests upon the following matters.

1st. The elevation of the country, or parts of the country above the level of the sea, and of the bed of great rivers.

2nd. The nature of the soil.

3rd. The climate, as it respects temperature, rains, and winds.

4th. The food and water.

5th. The temperance and cleanliness of the people.

6th. The appearance of the country.

1st. The elevation of N. E. Texas. The precise elevation has not been determined, but an approximation to the truth may be made. The Mississippi falls about three inches per mile through its course from the falls of St. Anthony to New Orleans, but below New Orleans the land is nearly level, and above the falls of St. Anthony the proportionate elevation increases most rapidly. The Red River has a current of equal average speed to that of the Mississippi, and thence is presumed that the fall per mile is also equal. The distance from New Orleans to Shreeveport (sic) is very variously stated, but we were informed, whilst travelling on the river, that it is nearly 800 miles through the windings of the river, whilst in a right line there is only $2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ of latitude betwixt them, causing the elevation in a right line to be fourteen inches per mile. This gives an elevation to Shreeveport (sic) of 200 feet above the level of the land lying in 30° of latitude, and this elevation in the longitude of Bonham or Dallas is much above the level of the seaboard. That the elevation of Shreeveport (sic) is far less than that of the northern prairies is evident from the fact that the Red River receives branches from this ridge through a space of nearly 1,000 miles above that town, and also that the current is more rapid above than below Shreeveport (sic). The Sabine and Trinity are considerable rivers, even in the latitude of Shreeveport (sic), and they arise by branches in this same elevated ridge. It is therefore probable that this ridge varies in elevation from 500 to 1,000 feet above the level of the sea and the level lowlands of the coast. But in this portion of the country two main elevations are found; that of the river bottoms and that of the intervening country. The river bottoms are usually flat, and sometimes form a plain of considerable width, which is subject to yearly inundations, except the higher portions, which remain dry unless the overflow of the river be unusually high. Sulphur Fork, in Bowie County, has a bottom which is overflowed yearly to a distance of one-and-a-half miles on either side of the river. Red River overflows its first bottom yearly, and sometimes the water reaches to the second bottom. The Sabine and the east fork of the Trinity have also extensive bottoms, but the head waters of these rivers do not overflow, for the streams are very numerous and small, and the rapid currents have worn deep channels in the limestone bounding the creeks, so that in a few instances, as at Dallas, we found the bed of the streams to be full fifty feet below the surface of the land. In such creeks the inundations occur only when crossings have permitted the egress of the waters. The periodic inundations result from the following causes:

1st. The fall on the alluvial bottoms is but trifling, and when the water descends from the many little creeks, it cannot flow through the main river with sufficient rapidity.

2nd. The River beds in this alluvium are exceedingly tortuous, introducing many little eddies into the stream, and preventing a free current down the river.

3rd. The river bottoms are uniformly covered with wood, and as the soil is washed away from the banks, the trees fall into the river and drift down the streams, so that some tree is at length arrested at a bend of the river, and forms the nucleus of a river raft. These rafts, of greater or less dimensions, exist or have existed in all the western and southern rivers, and oppose most important barriers to the descent of the waters.

But from whatever cause these inundations arise, it must be admitted that they materially interfere with the ordinary communication between the settlers situated on either side of the bottoms, and are liable to engender disease by inducing exhalations of decomposing matter.

It will not be possible to increase the general fall of the beds of these rivers, but the inundations themselves are working a change equally efficacious by depositing a large quantity of sand and soil upon and near to the overflowed banks. This deposit, by yearly increase, is rapidly raising the banks and forming second, third, and fourth bottoms, which are not overflowed. The tortuosity of the streams is daily lessening, as is readily observed on the Mississippi and Red rivers, where we frequently traversed cuts which had recently been made by the current, the which diminished the distance by cutting off a bend, and constituted a portion of land into an island. These bends are sometimes so large that a cut off of half a mile in length, lessens the journey by ten to twenty miles, and is it under these circumstances chiefly, that the natural cut-offs are effected. As these tortuosities are diminished, the rapidity of the current will increase, and tend to prevent the occurrences of inundations. Driftwood will be removed by the influx of settlers, who will cultivate the rich soils of these narrow bottoms, and cut down the wood bordering upon the rivers. When this wood is removed, free evaporation will be permitted, the inundations will be of shorter duration, and the formation of small stagnant pools and wet mud be prevented. These "bottoms" now constitute almost the only difficulty offered to the traveller and to the settler, and before many years have passed away, the above-mentioned causes will have effected their removal.

The country intervening betwixt the streams is invariably high and undulating, above the line of elevation of marshy miasmata, and naturally draining itself. This is the source of the creeks, and the fall is rapid. It constitutes nearly the whole of N. E. Texas, the river bottoms bearing no appreciable proportion to it. Thus the elevation of the country, as a whole, is favorable to health.

2nd. The Nature of the Soil. That kind of soil will most tend to health

which most readily promotes percolation, and therefore the sandy soil must occupy the foremost rank. This is found on nearly all the woodland of N. E. Texas, and also on the prairies of Hopkins and Kaufman counties, where the elevation of the hills also promotes drainage, and the soil is washed from the ridges and deposited in the vallies. The hilly districts will thus be more healthful than the small vallies.

The limy soil does not readily permit the percolation of rain, water, and therefore the vapour is thrown into the atmosphere in large quantities. Much of the Red River soil is of this nature, as is also a large portion of the black loam of the northern and western prairies. The lime is not so abundant in these soils as to materially interfere with the passage of the water; but they must be somewhat less healthful than the sandy soil. The basis of the soil being clay, which is impermeable, has induced the formation of the many small creeks, which drain the land are found in greater abundance upon the limy than the sandy soil. In the same soil the woodland is less healthful than the prairie, from the want of due evaporation in the former, inducing the formation of wet places, and increasing vegetable decomposition. In this point of view the woodland vallies are less healthful than the woodland ridges, and both less healthful than the rolling prairies.

3rd. Climate. The main elements of climate and the thermometric degree of heat at various seasons, with the extent and rapidity of the variations; the violence, direction, and permanence of the winds; the prevalence, duration, and amount of rains, and the amount of evaporation.

Heat. They have a short spring and winter, and a long summer and autumn. The hottest part of the year is in July and August, but frequently the heat on certain days of June is equal to that of any other part of the year. From the testimony of the settlers we learnt that the present season exhibits a fair average as it respects the temperature, and that a few of the days were as hot as is usually experienced in any part of the year. The accompanying list of temperatures shows the degree of heat to which we were exposed, and which never exceeded 80° in the shade. In regarding these thermometric indications we must not compare them with those of our own country in the hope of determining their effect upon the system. Our sensibility to heat and cold depends much upon the circumstances to which we have become habituated. Thus that degree of heat which is agreeable to the Laplander, would be frightful to an Englishman, and that which is pleasant to an Englishman would be far otherwise to an inhabitant of the torrid zone. We soon experienced on our own systems the truth of this observation. On entering New York we were scorched with the heat of 98° in the sun, but within two months we bore 120° in the sun with less inconvenience. We found 72° in Texas to produce a slight sensation of cold; but on returning over the Atlantic I bore 65° with the like sensation; and since my return to England a temperature of 55° has had precisely the like influence. In Texas, any degree from 70 to 85 in the shade is felt to be agreeable, but when below 70, a chilliness supervenes, and when above 85, the heat is oppressive.

When travelling on the Ohio River the temperature reached 91° in the shade, and became an annoyance. It is therefore essential to ascertain the nature of the sensation induced by any given degree of heat in Texas, before its climate can be compared with that of our own country. Except from ten A. M., to three P. M., the degree of heat is not unpleasant. About three or four o'clock A. M. the thermometer sank to 60 or 65°, and consequently in the hottest weather it is pleasant to use a covering in bed. After three P. M., the long delicious evening of a southern clime sets in, affording a degree of enjoyment which the inhabitants of a northern clime cannot comprehend. I found much difficulty in obtaining correct indications of the thermometer as it regards the heat of the sun's rays, from two important circumstances. The sun is scarcely ever unclouded, and therefore it is most rare to obtain the full influence of the sun's rays; a fact which must materially and delightfully benefit the settler. A strong breeze blows without intermission on the prairies, and renders tolerable even 120° in the sun. Thus the Texan enjoys all the luxury of an Italian clime, although he lives in more southerly latitudes. He, alone, who has felt the full influence of the sun's rays, can appreciate the delightful effect of these clouded skies and southern breezes; and to him they yield a gratification which is not exceeded by any circumstance influencing the senses.

From the table it will also be observed that the range of the thermometer, at morning, noon and night, does not indicate great variation in the temperature. The rain water is 70°, and produces no chilly feeling. The temperature of the water in the creeks and springs is from 66° to 88°, and gives only a pleasant sensation of cold, so that the heated and weary traveller may satisfy his appetite without risk. Diseases, as colds (fever, or cattarrh) depending upon variations of temperature, must be almost unknown. The settler may take violent exercise and then suddenly cease; he may sit or sleep in a draught; he may be unclad night and day; he may be exposed to showers and permit his clothes to dry upon his back; when heated he may plunge into the beautiful creeks or satisfy his thirst at the cool spring; he may lie upon the ground day or night, or for a series of nights, without shelter; and all these without incurring that risk of internal congestion which would induce fever, inflammation, and enlargement of the internal organs in other climates. But whilst he has nothing to fear from cold, he ought not carelessly to expose himself for several successive hours to the rays of the sun.

From the testimony of the settlers, we believe ourselves to have felt the ordinary degree of summer heat, but we have had no experience as to the cold of winter. The winter is said to begin in December, and to terminate in January, or at the commencement of February. Snow sometimes appears in the air, but cannot reach the ground; and ice is seen only on extraordinary occasions. It is evident that as the temperature does not violently nor suddenly change during the day, so there are no injurious extremes nor sudden changes in the seasons.

Winds. The winds are southerly during by far the greater portion of the year, proceeding from the gulph (sic) and the mountain districts of the

southwest. They moderate the heat of summer, and lessen the cold of winter. Their effect upon the skin is most delicious; and their lovely softness and balmy violence cannot be described. No maiden sighs for the return of her lover with half so much feeling as the traveller in the woodland longs for a blast of the prairie breeze. During all the twenty-four hours this strong breeze is blowing, and the settlers leave their hall open north and south, in order to enjoy the luxury in perfection. But one occurrence is dreaded by the settler as regards his climate, viz., the rude attacks of the northerly winds. These sweep over the prairies of the southwestern counties at irregular intervals, but chiefly during the winter months. Their duration varies from two to three days, and an overcoat is suddenly required, when probably the settler cannot obtain one. No such wind blew whilst we were in Texas. When they do occur, they have greater influence on the open prairie, than on the protected woodland. The winds in northwest Texas are always strong, but never put on the form of hurricanes, as is frequently found in more southern latitudes.

Rains. These chiefly occur in the months of December, January, and February. At other periods of the year the rains are frequent, and particularly those resulting from electrical conditions of the atmosphere. We were exposed to several of these storms, but did not find the rain to descend so heavily, nor with so much violence as we subsequently observed upon the Ohio, and at other stops of our journey. The latter months of summer are liable to a deficiency of rain, and corn or cotton planted at a late season may suffer from drought; but it does not affect crops planted at the usual time. This fact is important to the planters on the Red River, and the Mississippi, since the over-flowings of these rivers frequently prevent the early planting of the seed, and a failure is likely to result. It is not important to the grain grower, cotton, tobacco, and vine planter of the interior; nor to the stock farmer, since stock water is always plentiful. The rains prevent disease, by diminishing the heat, and by furnishing a supply of pure water in those parts where the inhabitants use cisterns.

Dews. We have travelled before sunrise and after sunset, and have slept out of doors on the prairie, and I have not found the dews so heavy as in this country. The heat reflected from the ground, and a cloudy sky, and the brisk wind, prevent the condensation of the vapour contained in the atmosphere. It is probable that vapour exists abundantly in the air, but it is so rarified that it is not very appreciable by the senses. We were informed that the dews fall heavily in the months of June, July, and August, after heavy rains.

From these various considerations, I deduce the opinion that the climate of Texas is very favourable to the health of the inhabitants. It also shares with other southern climates, in always exciting an exuberance of spirits, being altogether free from the heaviness and darkness which characterize the suicidal days in this country.

4. Food and Water. The circumstances under which the settlers have lived and do still live, as it respects food, observe careful consideration.

Judge English, residing at Bonham, emigrated to Texas about thirty years ago, when the country was in the hands of the Indians, and cultivation of any kind was unknown. Food was plentiful, but limited as to variety, consisting almost exclusively of buffaloe and venison; for no garden vegetables, grain, nor hogs could be procured. During the first few months they could not supply the former class of productions, but they endeavoured to obtain a substitute for bacon, by hunting the bear, which was not a matter of sport only, but a work of necessity, for their health required this kind of food. After the lapse of a season or two, they were able to procure vegetable food; but milk, butter, cheese, sugar, tea, coffee, beef, mutton could not be obtained at any price. His case is that of all the early pioneers; and we cannot be surprised if this kind of food and the dangerous circumstances under which they lived for many years induced disease. Dr. Conover, residing three miles from Dallas, emigrated thither about five years ago. The prairies were then covered with buffaloe and deer, and the bottoms were filled with bears, but the insecurity arising from the presence of the surrounding Indians, prevented the cultivation of the ground. For some time they ate buffaloe meat and venison as flesh, and bear as vegetable; which induced a nausea for flesh, and a longing for vegetable food; and corn, flour, and bacon could be procured only from the banks of the Brazos, or from Pinehill, on Red River. At length they obtained corn from the Brazos, at \$2 per bushel on the farm, and a further expenditure of \$3 per bushel for carriage, for it was needful to pay armed men to protect their waggons. Flour, also, cost them eleven cents, and bacon twenty-five cents, per lb., and since it was impossible for the settlers to procure food on these terms, many died from starvation, whilst placed in one of the most fertile spots under the sun. It was under these circumstances that many Europeans emigrated to that part of the country, (Peter's Colony), and died there; or returned to their former homes, disgusted with the dangers and privations of Texas. This was a most evident cause of disease. Three years ago, the Indians altogether left that part of the country, and productions are so much multiplied that corn now costs one-tenth of its former price.

Their present mode of living, also appears to me, to be most undesirable. It has already been stated that the major part of the settlers have suddenly entered into plenty, from privation; independence, from servility; and have therefore set aside much of their former industry, and seek pleasure rather than labour. Their land yields a fair crop of corn, with the most superficial and careless tilling and sowing imaginable. Their hogs fatten upon the mast of the woods and river bottoms. The fish fill the creeks, and the woods abound in game. Thus, they can readily have food without labour, and they are too frequently content to take it from these sources. The settler has scores of milch cows, but he thinks it a trouble to take more milk than will provide him with a small daily supply of butter and butter-milk. His steers are almost too fat for a Smithfield market, but he cannot kill one, there not being in his immediate neighbourhood a sufficient number of persons to eat up the beast in one or two days, and he considers it too much trouble and expense to pickle the

portions which remain. Sheep are too scarce to render it desirable that they should be used for food. His prairie land grows excellent wheat which he cannot grind in his coffee mill, and it is too much trouble to take it to his neighbour's mill. His table is therefore supplied by his rifle on the one hand, and on the other, by hogs and poultry, which are more commonly killed when lean than fat. Almost every article is fried over the fire; so that the surfeiting fried chicken, and the everlasting hog and hominy constitute his daily food. It is evident that whilst the Texan lives in a very Goshen, surrounded by every thing which heart could wish, his indolence has induced a selection of food of the least advantageous kind, which, habit has taught him to love above all others.

Thus, the past and the present mode of living, have not been the most advantageous to health, but the future will open another page for our investigation, and a change is even now being wrought in these matters. The more sensible part of the community loudly complain of the indolence which surrounds them, and much disapprove of settlers living by their rifle. It is becoming customary for families to eat hot biscuits, made of wheaten flour, at breakfast and supper; and in towns as at Bonham, Fresh beef may be obtained thrice a week, at two-and-a-half cents per lb. The poorest farmer may have, and soon will supply himself with food, equal in quality and variety to that of the richest luxurious European.

Water. It is probable that the early settlers upon the prairies suffered from the want of water; for they had no opportunity to dig wells, and the springs would not be abundant. The creek water also, is somewhat scarce in the advanced part of the summer, and is not then of good quality. Now that the country is settled, every resident may have abundance of good water in his own yard.

5. Temperance and cleanliness of the people. But one case of intemperance came under my observation; yet we were informed by the settlers that an intemperate use of whiskey is far too common in every class of society. We noticed that water and thick buttermilk are drunk universally and in large quantities; but the whiskey drinking habit has arisen from the low price of the article, and from a belief that it is prudent to take it, in order to correct the hard taste of the water in certain districts. This is a gross delusion in Texas, as in all the Western States, and it is fairer to refer the origin of the habit to that depraved taste which pervades all the States, and most of the classes in our own country. It is probable that the people of Texas are as cleanly in their persons and habits of those of other States, but they are still far from being cleanly. They have great natural facilities for bathing, but we scarcely found a Texan who took advantage of them; and therefore they not only neglect the use of a mean whereby relaxation of system may be avoided, but keep the body in a condition engendering disease.

6. The appearance of the country. The constant impression made upon the mind by surrounding objects has a material influence upon the well being of the individual, bodily and mentally. The rugged rock and arid waste

do not keep the mind active by giving birth to new thoughts, nor do they excite the spirits by offering new objects for examination. An unsightly marsh or offensive lake excites a misanthropic spirit which induces the man to withdraw within himself, and to avoid to take that exercise which would benefit his system. In N. E. Texas, no barren rock nor arid waste, nor offensive marsh, exists; but the spirits and the mind are healthfully excited by the appearance of a country having a beautifully undulating surface, agreeably diversified by woodland and prairie, and with an infinitude of little rippling rills, breaking it up into hills and valleys. The surface is everywhere covered with the most luxuriant vegetation. The foliage of the trees and shrubs has a variety, beauty, and symmetry, unknown to less genial climes. Flowers of the richest hue, and suited to every taste, adorn the prairie; and even the unsightly river bottoms are rendered less detestable by the twining of the beautiful cactus, and other climbers, which form the ornaments of European hot-houses. The birds flitting from tree to tree are very numerous, of elegant form and of beautiful colors, and many of them warble, too. The ground, and the grass, and indeed everything swarm with insects of beautiful forms and colours unknown to us. The birds of prey, even, as the goshawk and the falcon-tail hawk, are lovely creatures. The dreaded rattler and moccasin snakes have most beautifully painted skins, and the tarantula, to my eye, an elegant form and color. Nature there exists in a million forms to which we are strangers; and everywhere she clothes herself in beauty. You cannot but admire the green-headed prairie fly, which maddens your horse in the mid-day sun; and the mosquito which torments you at night is unsurpassed in lightness and elegance of form. So soon as the evening sets in, the grasshopper, locust, and other insects, fill the air with their beautifully tuned songs; and the tree frog, and the various kind of night birds pleasingly swell the chorus. To my mind no country offers so much beauty and luxury, and it is probable that the poet and the painter will ere long rank there as ordinary inhabitants; and whilst Texas has an indisputable right to its title of the Italy of America, it also lays claim to the not less enviable one of the garden of the world.

I therefore think myself entitled to affirm that the elevation of N. E. Texas, the nature of its soil, the climate, the attainable food and water, and the appearance of the country, all tend to render Texas pre-eminently healthful.

Nature of the Diseases

I have conversed with many medical men in various parts of N. E. Texas, and have been informed by them that the usual diseases are ague and winter fever. They are universally of the opinion that the attacks of ague may be avoided by a proper selection of location, temperance in the habits, and by the administration of an occasional dose of calomel to excite the secretory organs. They further state that it is there a comparatively unimportant disease, one dose of quinine being sufficient to repel an attack; so that they do not usually pay more than one visit to the patient, and frequently send the medicine without seeing him. It is not usual to suffer

a relapse unless the patient be intemperate or careless. From the testimony of the inhabitants we learnt that the unimportant form of ague is a very general disease in the country, and that new settlers are liable to its attacks, unless they use proper precautions. But one person ill with that disease came under my notice, viz., a girl fourteen years of age, who had recently emigrated to Texas, and was then living in the woodland; and the family had suffered during the past winter. They had not sought medical aid, but had administered a bitter root infused in brandy. This neglect of medical aid is far too common, and has resulted from the excessive charges of the practitioner, and from the lack of confidence in a profession, to practice which, no legal qualification is required. By this neglect, ague is liable to put on the usual form assumed by it in the Western and Eastern States, the Canadas, and in the marshes of our own country. The medical men regard the winter fever as a far more serious disease, from a real or supposed complication of it with inflammation of the lungs. I saw but one such case, which was a man of twenty-seven years of age, of spare and feeble habit, who had been informed that he had suffered from inflammation of the lungs; but the symptoms as detailed by him would not justify such a statement in the opinion of an European physician. It appears to be a kind of fever, accompanied by marked nervous exhaustion and general congestion of the internal organs, and much like the typhoid fever of this country. As in this country, it usually occurs in feeble persons, and those of intemperate habits; and it is there met with on the Red River and other lowland situations. Neither of these two diseases are common in elevated districts. Consumption, and other affections of the lungs, rheumatism, and its consequent diseases, appear to be almost unknown, for we have not heard of a case, neither have we met with an instance of deformity, or of affections of the eyes, except cataract. It is probable that diseases of the liver and spleen will result from neglected ague.

The People

Population. The amount of population of Texas, or of individual portions of it, is unknown. At the census of 1847, they were:

Electors	22,183	
White males, under age 18		28,083
White males, over 18, under 45		25,304
White males, over 45		4,951
		<hr/>
	Total whites, males	58,338
	Total whites, female	45,503
		<hr/>
	Total whites	103,841
	Total slaves	39,060
	Total free colored	304
		<hr/>
	Total colored	39,364

In addition to this number would be the inhabitants of San Patricio and Santa Fe, the returns from which countries had not been received. A vast increase has taken place since this census was taken, but until the general census of all the States, to be made during the next year, is published, it is impossible to arrive at even approximation to the truth. It is abundantly evident that the population of N. E. Texas must have greatly increased during the past three years, since we found but few families of older growth.

Chief towns. The chief towns are, with few exceptions, unimportant places, from the very limited period which has elapsed since their foundation.

Jefferson four years ago possessed only three log houses; now it is well laid out, and has somewhat near sixty good houses, and several large well-supplied stores, also one warehouse for the shipment of merchandise, and a small saw and grist steam mill.

Dangerfield (sic) is a very small place, but it is said to be rapidly rising. They have just determined to found a college there.

Tarrant consists of twelve to fifteen houses congregated on a very large prairie, from which there is no line of separation.

Clarksville is said to be the most flourishing town in N. E. Texas, containing, probably, three hundred families.

Paris and Bonham are of fair size, with two-hundred-and-fifty or three hundred inhabitants each. The court house is built of brick, but the other houses are neatly constructed of pine boards.

McKinney was founded but a year or two ago, and is small.

Dallas is a rising town, well situated for commerce, on a tongue of land on the very banks of the Trinity.

On our return route we passed through no county town, except Marshall, the most flourishing place through which we travelled. An iron casting furnace, two saw mills, and other useful works, with several large hotels, and many stores, testify that enterprize and wealth abound amongst the people.

All these towns are laid-out upon an uniform plan. They have a public square in the centre, in which invariably stands the newly built brick county hall. The streets run at right angles from this square, and are usually eighty feet in width. The intervening land is divided into blocks of one acre each, which are sold at from \$50 to \$300. These county towns are required to be situated within five miles of the centre of their respective counties, and therefore the site has not always been well chosen. Hence the town of Bonham is somewhat inconveniently situated upon the verge of a muddy creek bottom.

In appearance, the people as a whole are in good condition, and some of

them are luxuriantly fat. They have not the ruddiness and fair complexions of Northern climates; but to this rule we have met with many exceptions. Many of them have reached a good old age; Mr. Prewitt, with whom we spent our second night in Texas, was born in South Carolina, and is seventy years of age, quite active in body and mind, and reads well without spectacles. His was by no means a solitary instance; but they cannot be numerous, from the fact that few families have resided there more than five years. It is remarkable that the aged people are far more agile than persons of the like age with us, but that may be accounted for by the absence of that corpulence which so commonly attends upon age in our country. They have children to a later period of life than is customary with us, so that the families are large; and the children are developed at an earlier age than in England. Wives are scarce, and we heard of girls being married before they had reached their fifteenth year, a period which is there thought to be too early for such an undertaking. The men do not marry when very young. It was remarked by us that the appearance of the people much improved as we approached the prairies, where a greater abundance of good food, a more lovely climate, and greater beauty of scenery, appeared to have had a most favourable effect upon them.

National Character. At the present moment it is impossible to ascertain the national character of the inhabitants of N. E. Texas, from its elements being too scattered and diverse. The people have been collected from European kingdoms, and from many of the Northern and Southern, Eastern and Western States of the Union, which has given them a highly mixed character; and their emigration has been too recently effected to permit them to exhibit their political and social feelings in any characteristic form. The future will have an all-powerful influence upon the destinies of Texas. It is fair to assume that the luxurious circumstances in which the people are placed, will cause them to be less industrious than the inhabitants of rigorous climes; for the condition of the curse, that men should obtain food by sweat of his brow, requires for its fulfillment a vast difference in the degree of labour to be performed by a Texan and by a New Englander. It is certain that it will remain free from many southern vices, for its climate and inhabitants are not southern, although it is situated in the south. It is more than probable that this inter-mixture of blood will raise Texas in the social scale far above the position of the surrounding States; and from the beauty, fertility, and size of the whole State, it will ere long assume a commanding position in the Federal Government.

In Monetary Position, they must at present assume a low station. The mass emigrated in poverty and within three or four years have obtained a happy independence, but it will require many years before the inhabitants as a whole can attain to wealth. We found the small farmer greatly oppressed by a dishonorable system of trade which prevails at their ports, as Shreveport (sic) and Jefferson. He places his cotton in the hands of a merchant, and receives his supply of goods from the same merchant's store, upon the security of this deposited cotton. These goods are commonly charged three times their cost at New Orleans, and the merchant

sells the cotton at whatever state of market may happen to prevail when he needs money. The few are thus making large fortunes rapidly at the serious loss of the more honest producer. The large farmer avoids this loss by shipping his cotton direct to New Orleans, where he also procures his supply of goods; but the mass of the settlers speak most bitterly of the imposition to which they are subjected. English merchants who would act honestly, might soon engross the trade of these ports. Increase of population, with capital and intelligence, drives away a host of people, who drink the heart's blood of the early settlers at the ports of every new country. Money is worth eight to ten per cent, on the most approved security. Notes of undoubted value are often shaved (as it is expressively termed) at thirty-three and one-third per cent, and it is affirmed that the sharpers at Shreeveport (sic) have lent money on many occasions at one per cent, per day. We were assured by settlers from Alabama that there are men in that State who will not shave their own notes under thirty-three and a-quarter per cent. As it respects their future prospects, the unequalled advantages of the country place them inferior to none.

In intelligence, we found them universally to excel, and they are far better informed than the like class in our own country. At every town we found one or more newspapers printed periodically, which are tolerably well conducted and supported. They seek education for their children, and no towns in any new country surpass those of Clarkesville and Paris, in the number and excellence of their schools. At the former town there are three-hundred children daily taught in private schools, one of which schools is conducted by a graduate of Cambridge, England. At a little distance from the city, the Rev. T. B. MacKenzie, of Itinerant Retreat, conducts a college at which young men are prepared for the ministry, and other professions. The following advertisement selected from the Paris paper of February 3, shows that the abtruse parts of a good education are not overlooked in Texas.

"The Paris Academy. The undersigned, trustees of the Paris Academy, respectfully inform the citizens of Lamar County, and the public generally, that this institution is now in operation and open for the reception of students, in all the various elementary branches of a classical and mathematical Education. The Rev. T. Lewelling will conduct the classical and literary departments, including the English, Latin, and Greek languages, English grammar, book-keeping, chemistry, botany, geology, geography, penmanship, and mental philosophy. Professor R. C. Matthewson, will conduct mathematical and scientific departments, including arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, mensuration, surveying, navigation, astronomy, the differential and integral calculus, natural philosophy, and logic. The school is kept in a commodious and pleasantly situated building in the vicinity of the town. The tuition fees are moderate, and boarding can be obtained at one of the best Hotels in the place, at the low rate of \$7 per month."

G. W. Wright, President

H. D. Woodsworth, Sec. board trust."

"Paris, Lamar County, Feb. 3, 1849."

The Government provision for gratuitous education has not been brought into operation, since it has been thought unwise to bring the educational lands into the market at the present prices. These lands have however been duly appropriated in the proportion of about four leagues to each county; and the Government is largely indebted to the Educational Fund, according to the provisions of the Constitution. The charges for private tuition are higher than with us, but the condition of the surrounding Texans, and of the neighbouring Indians, enables them to pay the charge without difficulty. The system pursued in these, as in all American schools, is far more advantageous to a new country than that of the English, would be; for the aim of the teacher is to make his pupil to know something of the men amongst whom he will live, something of the institution in which he will eventually take a part, and something of the nature which surrounds him. This may be at the sacrifice of more scholastic knowledge, but it is not the less advantageous to the individual, and to the State. It is in their knowledge of men and of the world, that the American peasantry so far surpass that of the English, and it is to this knowledge that they owe much of their present enviable position.

In enterprise, we found them somewhat lacking, and for this two reasons are assigned. The major part of the people have vastly improved their condition, and are content with it, yet a numerous class, evidently desire to effect improvements, but lack the required capital, having invested their little fortunes in the purchase of vast quantities of land. Their love of enterprise is evident everywhere; and they have universally been delighted with our scheme of colonization, since it will introduce amongst them men of capital, skill, and enterprise. They are most anxious to have internal improvements effected. This is evident in the working man, who gladly leaves his farm to assist his neighbours to cut a new public road, or to render an old one more convenient, and it is not the less seen amongst the rich, who are ready to give a large portion of their lands to promote the formation of railways. Saw and grist mills, and other machinery are much required amongst them, for they lack the skill and capital to establish them.

In morality, we believe them to rank very high. Nothing in any degree militating against this opinion was remarked by us, but we found them to be thankful, honest, hospitable, and friendly to a remarkable extent, indeed they boast much of their honesty, and we heard it often remarked by tradesmen, that in no country are fewer bad debts made than in Texas.

The presbyterians, methodists, baptists, episcopalians and other sects, have extensive organizations in this part of Texas. No sect possesses any political advantages not enjoyed by another, but the presbyterians and the methodists appear to be now more influential than other bodies. The Sabbath is much respected, and the inhabitants conscientiously attend their places of worship, which are located within two or three miles of almost every residence. Some of these places are the houses of the settler, and others are chapels exclusively appropriated to religious and educational purposes. It was pleasing to hear the song of praise, rising from a knot

of people collected under the verandah of a settler's house, on the Saturday evening, in what have been called the backwoods and wilds of America; and we remembered that the millions of our intelligent countrymen were then busily occupied in commerce, whilst these "wild savages" were so auspiciously entering upon the devotions of the Sabbath. It was no unpleasing sight to notice the husband and wife riding on single horse to a place of worship, accompanied by their little children riding two and two. A neatly built chapel, filled with well dressed and happy looking men and women, situated in the deep shade of a dense wood, amongst the trees of which, scores of beautifully caparisoned horses await the arrival of their riders, is such worthy of a poet's pen or a painter's pencil. We saw such a scene on several occasions. The sermons which we heard were thoroughly Spiritual, if not able, and the lack of religious privileges needs not to be feared in any part of N. E. Texas. On many occasions our host asked a blessing on our food, and sometimes we saw him reading his testament before entering upon his daily duties. At Peacock's in Titus County, I saw a well-worn Bible, Dick's Philosophy of a Future State, and Walker's Dictionary; at Bionion's, two hymn books, a Primer, Everitt's Life of the Village Blacksmith, and a Digest of the Laws of the State of Missouri; at Dr. Taylor's, Marshall County, Clarke's Commentary, Wesley's works, and many excellent religious, scientific and literary books; and at Judge English's, a variety of legal, classical, and literary works.

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